Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 124009 TOSEC 020066

63
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66616
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:WCAMPBELL
APPROVED BY S/S-O:PSHANKLE
---------- 095404
O 282106Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 124009 TOSEC 020066

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRID 3645 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 28 MAY 75
QUOTE
S E C R E T MADRID 3645

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD), SP
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S VISIT--A FEW NOTES ON FRANCO

1. WHILE I REALIZE THAT A BIOGRAPHY OF FRANCO HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BRIEEFING BOOK, I THOUGHT I MIGHT SET DOWN A FEW OF MY OWN THOUGHTS WITH REGARD TO FRANCO'S PRESENT SITUATION, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL, AS A POSSIBLE HELP IN TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

2. FRANCO IS NOW HALF WAY INTO HIS 83RD YEAR. HE SUF-FERS FROM PARKINSON'S AND HAS A MORE OR LESS CONSTANT TREMOR, PARTICULARLY IN HIS RIGHT HAND, BUT ALSO VISIBLE IN HIS LEFT. HIS EYELIDS FLUTTER MORE OR LESS CONSTANT--
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 124009 TOSEC 020066

LY ANDHIS LIPS ARE APT TO QUIVER. HE HAS SOME DIFFI-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CULTY OF SPEECH AND SPEAKS IN A RATHER FAINT, HIGH-PITCHED VOICE WHICH, HOWEVER, IS ENTIRELY AUDIBLE TO THOSE SITTING CLOSE TO HIM. HE WALKS SLOWLY, BUT FAIR-LY STEADILY. HE HAS DIFFICULTY GETTING IN AND OUT OF HIS CAR.

3. LAST SUMMER, FRANCO WAS A VERY ILL MAN SUFFERING A SERIOUS PHLEBITIS ATTACK, COMPLICATED BY ANTI- COAGULENT TREATMENTS. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD SURVIVE. HIS RECOVERY HAS BEEN REMARK-ABLE AND IN SPITE OF RECURRING, BUT UNCONFIRMABLE, RE-PORTS THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM A VARIETY OF TERMINAL DISEASES, HE NEVERTHELESS MANAGES TO MAINTAIN A VERY ACTIVE SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY FOR A MAN OF HIS AGE. FOR EXAMPLE, LAST SUNDAY, HE WENT THROUGH THE ENTIRE VICTORY PARADE WHICH REQUIRED STANDING UP FOR OVER AN HOUR AND A HALF; ON TUESDAY, HE HAD HIS REGULAR MILITARY AUDIENCES, AND THEN LATER IN THE DAY PRESIDED OVER THE OPENING OF THE AGRICULTURAL FAIR. ON WEDNESDAY, HE HAD THE REGULAR CIVIL AUDIENCES, AND ON FRIDAY, THERE WILL BE A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OVER WHICH HE PRESIDES. IN BETWEEN THESE FORMAL COMMITMENTS, HE MEETS REGULARLY WITH THE INDIVID-UAL MINISTERS AND WITH PRESIDENT ARIAS. THUS, THROUGH SHEER WILL POWER CONDITIONED BY A LIFE WHICH HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO THESE ACTIVITIES FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS, FRANCO STILL MANAGES TO SHOULDER A FAIRLY HEAVY CEREMONIAL AND ALSO SUBSTANTIVE LOAD.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, HE DEFINITELY HAS BAD DAYS AND DAYS WHEN HE HAS DIFFICULTY GETTING STARTED AND IS LACKING IN LUCIDITY. I AM TOLD THAT WHEN FOREIGN MIN-ISTER GENSCHER WENT TO SEE HIM LAST MONTH, IT FIRST AP-PEARED THAT LITTLE OR NO CONVERSATION COULD TAKE PLACE AS FRANCO SEEMED TO BE UNABLE TO GET HIMSELF GOING. HOWEVER, HE THEN BEGAN TO ASK QUESTIONS OF GENSCHER AND THE CONVERSATION BECAME MOSTLY ONE OF SHORT QUESTIONS BY FRANCO AND REPLIES BY GENSCHER.

5. FRANCO, A GALICIAN, HAS BEEN RENOWNED FOR HIS TACI-TURNITY AND HIS CAUTIOUSNESS OF SPEECH. IN ALL PROBA-

SECRET

SECRET

BILITY, HIS STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT WILL BE OF A RATHER GENERAL NATURE AND VERY SHORT AND HIS REPLIES TO THE PRESIDENT BRIEF AND RATHER SLOW IN COMING. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT HE WILL LOOK TO THE PRESIDENT TO CARRY THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE CONVERSATION. I THINK IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT FRANCO WILL TURN TO EITHER ARIAS OR CORTINA TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.
STABLER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC 20066, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:WCAMPBELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0974
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750512/aaaaakob.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S VISIT--A FEW NOTES ON FRANCO
TAGS: OVIP, SP, US, (FORD, GERALD)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006